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Five Practical Ways To Build On the Firm Foundation of Christ

Scripture

1. Humble Yourself and Seek God's Presence

Scripture:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 — “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”
- 1 Peter 5:6–7 — “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
- Matthew 6:10 — “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Notes:

- Wisdom begins where pride ends.
- Humbling yourself, pray and turn from our ways so that God will be able to hear your prayers, answer them and heal.

Action Step:

- Before making any significant decision (big or small), pause to pray for God’s direction and write down how you sense Him leading.

Questions:

- Poll: When you sense God leading differently than your plan, how do you usually respond?
 - Resist
 - Delay
 - Obey Quickly
- Where has humility (or lack of it) most affected your spiritual progress lately?

2. Trust God Fully—Even in the Fire

Scripture:

- Isaiah 26:3 — “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”
- Daniel 3:17–18 — “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us... But even if he does not, we want you to know... we will not serve your gods.”

- Philippians 4:6–7 — “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Notes:

- Trust anchors you in God, giving you a supernatural peace before anything has been done.
- Know that obedience is more important than immediate rescue.
- Praying for a fear you may have allows you to give it over to God, knowing that he is bigger than the problem.

Action Step:

- Name one fear. Pray: “Lord, I trust You with ____, even if the outcome differs from my preference.” Then take one small faith action related to it.

Questions:

- Open mic — “Share a time God gave you peace without changing the circumstance (yet).”
- How does trusting God change the way you speak and act during your current storm?

3. Be a Doer, Not Just a Hearer

Scripture:

- James 1:22 — “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”
- James 1:25 — “...whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”
- Matthew 7:24 — “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Notes:

- Hearing without doing deceives us. Knowledge without obedience gives the illusion of growth while leaving us spiritually weak.
- It doesn’t matter how much you know if you aren’t willing to put it into action.
- What we learn should be lived out in every area of our life.

Action Step:

- Choose one command of Jesus (e.g., forgive, reconcile, serve, give). Write exactly when and how you’ll do it before next Saturday. I’ll want someone to share it next Saturday.

Questions:

- Poll: Which command of Jesus is hardest for you to live out:
 - Forgiveness
 - Generosity
 - Service
 - Reconciliation
- When was a time obedience cost you something but produced peace?

4. Stay Connected to the Vine

Scripture:

- John 15:4 — “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.”
- John 15:5 — “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

- Psalm 1:2–3 — “...whose delight is in the law of the Lord... That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season.”

Notes

- It is impossible to produce fruit apart from Christ. We must stay connected to Him.
- God alone is the source of our growth and life, remaining in His word and love daily aligning our life with His ways.
- God prunes even good branches to take away any distraction so that lasting fruit can be produced.

Action Step:

- Set a daily 15-minute “abide block”: read a Gospel passage, journal one truth, and pray it back to God. Ask, “What are You pruning right now?”

Questions:

- Poll: Where do you most struggle to abide?
 - Prayer
 - Word
 - Worship
 - Obedience

5. Build on the Rock, Not the Sand

Scripture:

- Matthew 7:24–25 — “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
- Luke 6:47–48 — “As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock.”
- Psalm 127:1 — “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.”

Notes

- The storm isn’t if, it’s when. The difference between standing firm or collapsing is whether we just hear the word or stand firm on Christ.
- A life grounded in Christ will be firm where short cuts will always crumble under pressure.
- Identify areas in your life where you are not standing firmly in Christ allows you to know where you need to lean more on Christ.

Action Step:

- Run a “foundation audit” on one area—relationships, finances, schedule, or habits. List what’s rock (obedience) vs. sand (preference/pressure). Replace one sand practice with a rock practice.

Questions:

- What part of your ‘house’ most needs rebuilding with Jesus as the Cornerstone?

Closing Quiz

1. What distinguishes the wise builder from the foolish one?
 - Knowing a lot of Scripture but not applying it
 - Hearing and doing Jesus’ words
 - Building a bigger house than others

2. Where does Jesus teach “I am the vine, you are the branches?”
 - John 10
 - John 3
 - John 15
 - John 21
3. What promise accompanies humility and seeking God?
 - God grants wealth and long life
 - God hears, forgives and heals
 - God removes every trial instantly
 - God gives angels charge to keep you

Group Challenge (This Week)

- Memorize Matthew 7:24–25 or Luke 6:47–48.
- Share one “hear & do” testimony at the next testimony Friday.
- Pray Psalm 127:1–2 over your day.